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**(54) Biopsy assembly including an expandable sleeve**

(57) A surgical instrument assembly for excising a targeted tissue mass to be biopsied from adjacent bodily tissue of a surgical patient is disclosed. The assembly has a tissue biopsy device and an expandable sleeve (11) for receiving the tissue biopsy device. The biopsy device has a penetrating member affixed to a distal end of an elongated tube to facilitate insertion of the tube adjacent the targeted tissue mass. It also has a tissue receiving chamber at the distal end of the tube for receiving the mass and a tissue cutter movable relative to the penetrating member from first to second positions for excising the targeted tissue mass. The expandable sleeve provides an access portal to the targeted tissue mass. It is expandable from a first original diameter to a second expanded diameter in response to insertion of the tissue biopsy device where at least a portion of the device has a device diameter corresponding to the second expanded diameter. When the tissue biopsy device is inserted through the sleeve, and the sleeve expands, the surrounding tissue is dilated. The dilation of tissue is less traumatic to the patient than incisional length which matches the diameter of the penetrating member of the biopsy device.

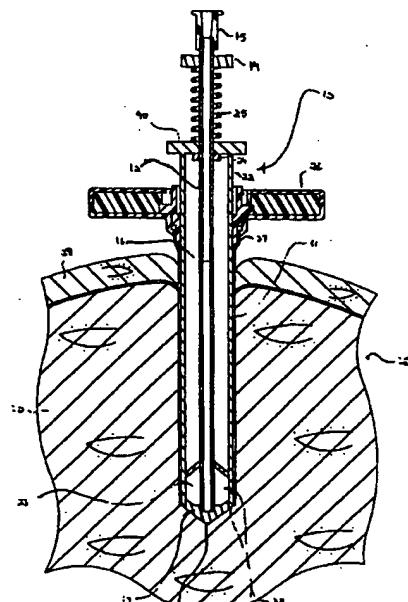


FIG. 4



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## EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number  
EP 98 30 9547

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT									
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.6)						
Y	WO 96 24289 A (BIOPSYS MEDICAL INC) 15 August 1996 * page 6, line 18 - line 26 * * page 15, line 14 - page 16, line 10; figures 8-12 * -----	1	A61B10/00						
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<table border="1"> <tr> <td colspan="2">TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.6)</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2">A61B</td> </tr> </table>				TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.6)		A61B			
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<p>The present search report has been drawn up for all claims</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Place of search</td> <td>Date of completion of the search</td> <td>Examiner</td> </tr> <tr> <td>THE HAGUE</td> <td>7 April 1999</td> <td>Mayer, E</td> </tr> </table>				Place of search	Date of completion of the search	Examiner	THE HAGUE	7 April 1999	Mayer, E
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ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.

EP 98 30 9547

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